HCC – Quiz 9 – Chapter 7   
  
1. What are the terms for office for members of the legislature?   
a. Texas senators are elected for four-year staggered terms; representatives are elected for two-year terms.   
b. Texas senators are elected for four-year staggered terms, as are representatives.   
c. Texas senators are elected for six-year staggered terms; representatives are elected for two-year terms.   
d. Texas senators are elected for two-year staggered terms; representatives are elected for four-year terms.   
  
2. Which of the following is not an argument against having short-term biennial sessions in Texas?   
a. It tends to work against deliberative, orderly legislative practice.   
b. Texas legislators cannot possibly acquaint themselves with the immense volume of legislation presented to them.   
c. Too much legislation gets passed at the end of the session with legislators knowing little about what they are passing.   
d. Texans believe that the legislature does more good than harm; therefore, a longer session is better.   
  
3. Which group is underrepresented in the legislature relative to their percentages in the general population?   
a. Hispanics   
b. Asians   
c. Females   
d. All of the above   
  
4. All Texas legislators are elected using   
a. multiple-member districts.   
b. floating districts.   
c. single-member districts.   
d. regional districts.   
  
5. Which profession is the most frequently represented in the U.S. legislature?   
a. Law   
b. Medical   
c. Teachers   
d. Business   
  
6. According to your text, which statement best describes the Texas legislators?   
a. They receive most of their income from outside sources.   
b. They are more focused on their full-time careers.   
c. They are more focused on outside sources of income than on the public interest.   
d. All of the above.   
  
7. The redrawing of district and precinct lines following the national census to reflect population changes defines   
a. redistricting.   
b. single-member district.   
c. reapportionment.   
d. regional districts.   
  
8. Because of a history of discrimination, Texas was one of nine states required to receive preclearance of any changes to their voting laws from the   
a. Department of Justice.   
b. Texas Attorney General’s Office.   
c. Governor of Texas.   
d. Texas Supreme Texas.   
  
9. Which of the following is not correct about gerrymandering?   
a. Gerrymandering is used to protect a first-time candidate.   
b. Gerrymandering uses a pairing technique that redistricts two or more incumbent legislators’ residences or political bases so that both are in the same district.   
c. Gerrymandering is used to concentrate minorities in one district.   
d. Gerrymandering diffuses a concentrated political or ethnic minority among several districts so that votes in any one district are negligible.   
  
10. The most visible individuals in the Texas legislature are the   
a. presiding officers.   
b. the floor leaders.   
c. legislative whips.   
d. senate and house clerks.   
  
11. The presiding officer of the senate does not have the authority to   
a. interpret rules and points of order.   
b. recognize senators who wish to speak.   
c. vote in the event of a tie.   
d. provide a proxy vote in order to have a quorum.   
  
12. Which of the following is not a power of the presiding officers of the legislature?   
a. Assigning bills to committees   
b. Recognizing members on the floor   
c. Appointing the chairs and members of the conference committees   
d. Interpreting laws and giving advisory opinions   
  
13. The appointive power of the presiding officers means that   
a. the action of a committee on specific legislation is usually predictable.   
b. the presiding officers can use their power of appointment to reward friends and supporters.   
c. opponents of the presiding officers can be punished.   
d. all of the above are true.   
  
14. The Texas Constitution requires the speaker of the house to be selected by   
a. the majority of the membership of the house.   
b. a statewide election with a plurality of the votes.   
c. members of his party or party in the house.   
d. every member of both chambers.   
  
15. Which of the following is an advantage for a house member to support the winning speaker candidate?   
a. Become part of the speaker’s “team”   
b. Attract more campaign contributions   
c. Benefits may include membership on a prestigious committee   
d. All of the above   
  
16. Candidates for speaker are required to file a complete statement of loans, campaign contributions, and expenditures with which of the following?   
a. Texas Finance Committee   
b. Comptroller of public accounts   
c. Texas Audit Commission   
d. Secretary of state   
  
17. Which of the following is not a reason why committees are often called “little legislatures”?   
a. A committee can conduct the real legislative business of compromise and accommodation.   
b. A committee can change the content of a bill or kill the bill.   
c. In committees, bills may be totally rewritten or could be pigeonholed.   
d. A bill can be enacted into law by a committee in case of an emergency.   
  
18. Which of the following is a consideration in the placement of bills on calendars by the House Calendar Committee?   
a. Place a bill lower to gain time to build support.   
b. Place it near the top to get it passed before the opposition can organize.   
c. Place it toward the bottom because they oppose the bill.   
d. All of the above.   
  
19. Subcommittees are divisions of   
a. ad hoc committees.   
b. standing committees.   
c. conference committees.   
d. interim committees.   
  
20. Which committee is not an ad hoc committee?   
a. Select   
b. Conference   
c. Standing   
d. Special 